

World Bank Assistance to Maharashtra

554. SHRI RAJABHAI THAKRE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has provided financial assistance to Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the amount of assistance and the areas/sector for which the World Bank has provided financial assistance;

(c) the details of the projects pertaining to the State pending with the Union Government for approval and since when; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, There are five World Bank aided ongoing State Sector projects in the State of Maharashtra, the details of which are as follows:—

Name of the project	Loan/credit Amount (US\$M)	Sector
1. Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation	109.09	Water Resource Mgt.
2. Bombay Sewage Disposal	192.00	Water Resource Mgt.
3. Maharashtra Power	337.33	Power
4. Second Maharashtra Power	350.00	Power
5. Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake Rehabilitation	220.70	Urban

Besides these State Sector projects, there is one Multi-State project namely Second Technician Education project and several Central Sector projects in which the State of Maharashtra is beneficiary.

(c) and (d) No project proposal for possible World Bank assistance to the State of Maharashtra is pending with the Union Government.

Small Paper Mills

555. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small paper mills set up during each of the last three years and the locations thereof;

(b) whether the Government are encouraging small paper mills to use agricultural material as raw material; and

(c) the ratio of paper provided by small paper mills vis-a-vis big paper mills in the country during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Paper Industry stands fully de-licensed. During the last three years the number of Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum filed and LOIs issued for the paper industry are as under:—

Year	No. of IEMs	No. of LOIs
1995	355	13
1996	271	7
1997	128 (Upto 31.10.97)	2 (Upto 17.7.97)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Approximately 60% of the production is from small mills.

Prices of Cardamom

556. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cardamom is not fetching reasonable price;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations for ensuring remunerative price to the growers; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The all India average price of small cardamom during the period August-July (1996-97) was Rs. 365.82 per kg. as compared to Rs. 201.58 per kg. during the period August-July (1995-96). During the last 3 months of the current year, the prices of cardamom have shown a mixed trend as can be adduced from details given below:—

1997		
August	:	Rs. 269.08/Kg.
September	:	Rs. 303.38/Kg.
October	:	Rs. 275.95/Kg.

(Source: Spices Board)

The mixed trend in prices is mainly due to the expectation of the market of increased production of small cardamom during the current year.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken for ensuring remunerative prices to the growers include:—

- (1) Licencing auctioneers in places near consumption centres such as Bombay.
- (2) Alerting Deptt. of Revenue and all other customs authorities and their field formations against the complaints of alleged smuggling of cardamom from Guatemala through Nepal;
- (3) Promotion of cardamom in consumer packs in North and West India; and
- (4) Reimbursement of airfreight charges at the rate of Rs. 20 per Kg. for export of small cardamom in consumer packs to Middle east destinations and exemption on payment of cess on export of cardamom.

Central Assistance

557. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Tenth Finance Commission has not made recommendations for providing plan revenue deficit grant to some States;
- (b) whether some States are facing difficulties for making provision of revenue expenditure under the plan, particularly;
- (c) if so, whether Union government propose to provide additional Central assistance to State like Orissa; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) has not recommended plan revenue deficit grant to States.

(b) to (d) The total devolution to States under Tenth Finance Commission during 1995–2000 is estimated to be Rs. 2,26,643 crore as compared to Rs. 1,06,036 crore recommended by Ninth Finance Commission (NFC) for the period 1990–95. The total devolution to Orissa as per the recommendation of TFC for 1995–2000 is estimated to be Rs. 9706.55 crore as compared to Rs. 5523.04 crore recommended by NFC over the preceding quinquennium 1990–95. There is adequate increase in the total devolution to States including Orissa State as recommended by TFC during 1995–2000.

The recommendation of TFC have already been accepted by Government of India. Accordingly the devolution of resources from Centre to States during 1995–2000 would be as per the recommendations of TFC.

The requirement of resources for funding the Annual plans of States is assessed by Planning Commission in

consultation with States. The annual plan of Orissa for 1997–98 as finalised by Planning Commission is fully funded. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government of India to give additional Central assistance to the State in addition to what has already been allocated by Planning Commission.

Financial Scams Unearthed by CBI

558. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of financial scams in banks, Government offices etc. have been unearthed by the CBI during 1997 (upto November 1);
- (b) the names of these banks/bodies and the amount involved in each case; and
- (c) the action taken in this regard and the amount expected to be recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ)

(a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Sick Industries in Bihar

559. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the big sick industries in Bihar;
- (b) the date from which they have been closed down and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to revive some valley Portland Cement Factory;
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be revived;
- (e) whether the Union government proposed to revive various sick industries in Bihar; and
- (f) if so, the industry wise steps taken by the Union Government for reviving those industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (f) : Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country in compiled by the Reserve bank of India. According to the latest report, at the end of March, 1996, there were 56 non-SSI sick units in Bihar. These are mainly Engineering, Electrical, Sugar, Textiles, Paper, Iron & Steel and Chemical Units.

A number of causes, both internal and external, often operating in combination, have been responsible for industrial sickness.